

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT  TOPIC Military Activity in the Letzling HeathEVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  DATE OF CONTENT  DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 29 September 1954REFERENCES  PAGES 2ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  REMARKS  This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

1. The following shipments were unloaded at the Haldensleben railroad station between 19 and 21 September 1954:

19 September. At 0700, 8 x 85-mm AA guns, approximately 50 trucks  

  and approximately 200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

20 September. At 0700, a shipment of approximately 150 railroad cars carrying 6 x 85-mm AA guns, 2 x 37-mm AA guns with protective shields, 4 x 122-mm field howitzers, 8 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 5 four-wheel armored personnel carriers, 1 BA-64 armored scout car, approximately 50 trucks  

  and at least 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

21 September. At 1400, 10 six-wheel armored personnel carriers and an undetermined numbers of trucks  

All units left toward Torg. <sup>4</sup>

During the night on 21 September, heavy vehicular traffic in both directions was repeatedly observed on the Magdeburg-Haldensleben road. <sup>2</sup>

2. At 0600 on 19 September, exercises started in the Planken area in the southern section of Letzling Heath. Troop units approached this area from the direction of Hillersleben. Two jet fighters were seen over the Planken area.

3. Fall maneuvers started in the Letzling Heath on 20 September.

4. A Soviet senior lieutenant of the AAA unit stationed in the West Kaserne (5181) in Hillersleben stated that fall exercises were to be conducted in the Letzling Heath between 20 and 25 September. <sup>2</sup>

5. Between 1850 and midnight on 25 September, major columns passed over the northern road bridge in Magdeburg and proceeded eastward. The columns, which came from the direction of Wolmirstedt, consisted of a total of 62 x 57-mm AT guns towed by motor vehicles   26 x 76.2-mm AT guns, 34 x 85-mm AT guns, 93 x 37-mm AA guns towed by vehicles including No E 2-39-16, 48 trucks mounting AA machine guns, 47 x 120-mm mortars towed by vehicles   armored scout cars, 90 armored personnel carriers.

The columns traveled at a speed of about 30 km per hour. <sup>3</sup>

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On 19 September, approximately 20 trucks including [redacted] passed through Gardelegen. The vehicles which were occupied by soldiers carrying full field equipment came from the direction of Magdeburg and presumably went toward Zichtau. One truck carried a pontoon.

On 20 September, guides were posted in Westeritz, Solpke, Wernitz and Mieste west of Gardelegen. Imprints of many tank tracks led to this area from a southeasterly direction. On 23 September, several sedans passed through Gardelegen and proceeded toward Letzlingen. The vehicles were occupied by officers. Motor vehicles [redacted] came from the direction of Haldensleben and went toward Letzlingen. Guides were posted at all intersections of roads and wood lanes between Magdeburg-Haldensleben-Bern-Letzlingen and Gardelegen. Farmers had been ordered to harvest the potatoes in the Letzlingen area and the area south of the Jaevenitz-Mottendorf road prior to 25 September. 2

1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] units of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the 62d AAA Div were detained. [redacted] these elements had transferred to Dessau on four trains on 18 and 19 September.

2. [redacted] Comment. The information fails to indicate which of the units stationed in the Letzling Heath started exercises on 19 and 20 September. According to paragraphs 1 and 4, elements of the 19th Gds Mech Div from Magdeburg and Hildersleben started exercises at that time. It is undetermined, however, in which area these exercises were conducted. It is not impossible that all components of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps participated, although this cannot be confirmed by observations in paragraph 6. The motor vehicle [redacted] observed in the northwest section of Letzling Heath are believed to belong to the Third Shock Army, the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps, the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, the 7th Gds Tank Div and the unidentified Engr Regt of the GSWG. There is reason to believe that exercises in the area involved the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps and elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the unidentified engineer regiment from Bernburg. The 7th Gds Tank Div possibly represented the ensary force.

3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the majority, to the IX Mtz Rifle Corps. Units of the corps may have been unloaded in the Wolmirstedt area in order to move by road to their training area which was assumed to be located north of Magdeburg east of the Elbe River. [redacted] weapons and vehicles observed with the columns were apparently overestimated.

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